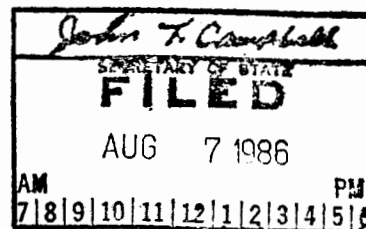


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Executive Department



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STATE DOCUMENTS

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 86-14

WHEREAS, meeting needs of the citizens with efficient and effective human services is vital to the various segments of government and the people of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Governor should promote and foster the coordination and resolution of the human service problems for the benefit of the State and its people; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Governor should serve as a model in resolving the complaints of the State's citizens, especially those related to children, the handicapped and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, the need to resolve these problems in accordance with established procedures and statutes is essential to effective use of State, federal and other resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the power conferred upon me by the Constitution and laws of the State of South Carolina, I hereby establish the Division of Ombudsman and Citizen Services in the Office of the Governor.

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The Division of Ombudsman and Citizen Services shall serve to carry out the specific duties defined by Sections 43-38-10 et seq., and 43-30-10 et seq., Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976 (1985 Cum. Supp.), Act 421 of 1986, or other sections of the statutes presently in force such as serving as a standing member of the Clinical Standards Review Committee or others that may be assigned. In carrying out the duties of this Division, the Governor shall be advised of citizens' problems, system dysfunctions, specific agency problems or service gap deficiencies that affect the lives of the State's citizens. The State Ombudsman, who is the Division Director, supervises the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program as mandated by the Older Americans Act. Additionally, the Division is responsible for the Ombudsman Program at the Medical University of South Carolina. The Division shall also contain an investigation unit that receives and investigates complaints of abuse and neglect of persons confined to nursing homes, residential care facilities, mental health, mental retardation and other health-related facilities. Additionally, the Office of Children's Affairs is located within the Division and has the primary mission to insure the continuity of children's services in the public sector. A secondary mission is to monitor the availability of services for children and to advocate for those services that favor the interest of children. Another specific function is to carry out the duties of the Children's Case Resolution System established by Act 421 of 1986.

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The Division is authorized to investigate and receive citizen complaints concerning health and human service problems. The Division also gives technical assistance to anyone who has a problem of a health or human services nature, such as Medicare/Medicaid/AFDC eligibility, nursing homes, Social Security/Supplemental Security Income disability, food stamps, energy assistance, children's services or other related activities.

The Division shall undertake such special projects as are deemed necessary for the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of State government in this area. Special projects shall include the monitoring of the Justice Department consent decree for the Department of Mental Health. The Division shall assume other responsibilities as assigned.

The Division is authorized to receive and dispense federal, State and other funds made available for the above purposes.

The Division shall be headed by the State Ombudsman who serves as the Director. The Division shall have Deputy Directors and Administrative Assistants for program management to aid the Director in supervision and policy plans of the Division.

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This Executive Order shall be effective immediately.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS 6th
DAY OF AUGUST, 1986.



RICHARD W. RILEY
Governor

ATTEST:



JOHN T. CAMPBELL
Secretary of State